

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct two clerical errors. Claim 1 has been amended to correct an error, i.e. changing “drying device” to “cleaning device”. It has also been amended to make it crystal clear that intermediate spaces are formed between the heating plates.

The invention recited in claim 10 relates to a drying system which includes both a drying cabinet and a cleaning device. While the elements of the drying cabinet are recited in an introductory paragraph prior to reciting the elements of the cleaning device, they are no less part of the system according to the invention. The drying cabinet as claimed includes an interior having a top, a bottom, and a plurality of heating plates arranged horizontally to form a plurality of intermediate spaces.

Claims 10-13, 16, and 18-19 stand rejected as anticipated by Todd-Reeve U.S. 3,868,835. To the extent that this reference would be applied against claims as presently amended, such rejection is traversed for the reasons following.

Todd-Reeve discloses a washing machine having a compartment in which clothes are hung vertically. Upper and lower spray bars 12, 13 rotate as they spray water under pressure to wash the clothes. As shown in Figure 1, the upper spray bar 12 sprays water downward and lower spray bar 13 sprays water upward. Drying is accomplished by directing air downward from the upper spray bar 12 (col. 4, lines 9-11). In another embodiment, air is directed downward from slots 52 and nozzles 53 in a disk 51. In both cases the lower spray bar 13 serves as a fan during drying.

There is no disclosure or suggestion in Todd-Reeve of providing heating plates which form intermediate spaces in the interior. On the contrary, Todd-Reeve teaches away from this because it would make it impossible to hang clothes in a relatively open interior space for washing and drying. Such a modification would defeat the teaching of this reference. See MPEP 2143.01. Accordingly,

Todd-Reeve not only does not anticipate claim 10, but cannot be modified to render it obvious. Since claims 11-13, 16, and 18-20 depend from claim 10, these claims are likewise patentable over Todd-Reeve.

Claims 14-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 citing Todd-Reeve in view of Goettel. The latter shows a parts basket on a cart which can be placed in a cabinet where ducts and spray arms are already in place. This in no way suggests a cleaning device as recited in claims 14-15, wherein the cleaning device is removable as a unit. Here too there is no disclosure or suggestion of heating plates in the interior.


Claim 17 stands rejected citing Todd-Reeve in view of Alexnian. The latter discloses a horizontal spray apparatus for washing trucks and bears no relevance to a cleaning apparatus having rotatable spray bars which can be inserted in the interior of a drying cabinet having heating plates.

Newly submitted claims 20-23 only relate to the cleaning device and represent a subcombination of the apparatus in claim 10, therefore not being subject to restriction. Claim 21 is distinguishable from the cleaning device of Todd-Reeve by virtue of having spray arms which can be received in intermediate space between heating plates, and by the transporting device. The cleaning device of Todd-Reeve is fixed in the interior of the cabinet and not to a transporting device. Any modification of the cleaning device of this reference would require such a radical re-design of both Todd-Reeve and Goettel that it could only be seen as hindsight based on applicant's disclosure.

The claims as amended and newly presented being definite and patentably distinguishable from the art of record, withdrawal of the rejections and early allowance are earnestly solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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